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Senate committee agrees to name trail after Meijer

LANSING – Legislation to immediately rename the White Pine Trail State Park the Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park is headed to the full Senate for consideration after being passed today by the Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee.

It also will help facilitate the development of a new trail in North Muskegon that will be named the Fred Meijer Berry Junction Trail.

Meijer has offered to donate \$1 million to help finish paving the 92-mile trail in exchange for the trail being named after him. The Natural Resources Trust Fund Board declined the donation citing a policy not to name a state facility after a private citizen.

“Fred has been instrumental to Michigan through his philanthropy and donations to the community and the entire state,” said Sen. Patty Birkholz, chair of the committee. “His willingness to provide the state the funding needed to help finish this trail is wonderful and we should recognize his generosity.”

House Bill 6110 also will begin a process to develop definite criteria that can be used in the future to name public recreational facilities after private individuals. It will require the Department of Natural Resources to work with the Parks Advisory Committee, the Natural Resources Commission and the Natural Resources Trust Fund Board to develop criteria to help guide whether and how parks and trails are named after individuals.

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